



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

MEDIA ADVISORY
July 17, 2003

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**TREASURER ANGELIDES DEMANDS APOLOGY FROM GEORGE WILL
FOR 'THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA,' GREEK AND ARMENIAN DESCENDANTS**

*Angelides Expresses 'Outrage' in Letter to National Columnist
Over His Writing that 'Californians Need an Ataturk'*

SACRAMENTO, CA – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides today sent the attached letter to columnist George Will regarding his recent column in *Newsweek* ("The Last Word," July 7, 2003) about the potential recall election in California. In the column, Will wrote that "Californians need an Ataturk" to rule the State, referring to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the modern Turkish nation.

In his letter, Angelides writes that Ataturk's armies "waged a brutal and murderous campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Greeks and Armenians who inhabited the Anatolian peninsula now home to the nation of Turkey." The Treasurer writes that Will owes "an apology to the people of California and, most importantly, to the families of the innocent men, women and children who were savagely murdered by Ataturk's nationalist forces."

Attachment



PHILIP ANGELIDES
Treasurer
State of California

July 17, 2003

Mr. George Will
c/o Washington Post Writers Group
1150 15th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20071

Re: "Californians Need an Ataturk"

Dear Mr. Will:

I am writing this letter to express my outrage regarding your recent column in *Newsweek* ("The Last Word," July 7, 2003) about the potential recall election in California.

In that column, you stated that "Californians need an Ataturk," – referring to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the modern Turkish nation, whose armies waged a brutal and murderous campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Greeks and Armenians who inhabited the Anatolian peninsula now home to the nation of Turkey. You owe an apology to the people of California and, most importantly, to the families of the innocent men, women, and children who were savagely murdered by Ataturk's nationalist forces.

Ataturk's campaign of ethnic cleansing resulted in the mass expulsion and massacre of a Greek community that had lived in Asia Minor for centuries. It was also the final, tragic chapter of the genocide of the Armenians by the Turkish state. With the burning of Smyrna in 1922 and the elimination of the Republic of Armenia, in concert with the Soviet Union, the Turkish nationalist forces finished the ethnic purging begun by the Young Turks. From 1915 to Ataturk's founding of the Turkish Republic in 1923, over two million Armenians and Greeks perished in this campaign of infamy.

I am deeply disappointed that you would glorify Ataturk or somehow suggest that he would be a fit leader for a free and democratic state of over 35 million Americans – given the genocide over which he presided. (Attached are a few writings that speak to historical record.) California does not need an Ataturk anymore than it needs a Slobodan Milosevic or a Saddam Hussein.

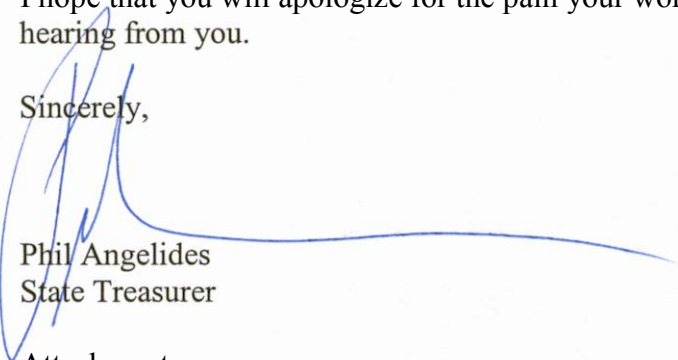
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I find it troubling that a learned man such as yourself would be ignorant of or choose to ignore this history of brutality and genocide. As you know, for the last eighty years, the Turkish government has waged a deliberate and concerted campaign to bury the truth of the genocide, and to this day, unlike Germany, steadfastly refuses to admit the historical facts of the genocide or any responsibility for it. Those of us privileged to live in the world's greatest democracy have a special obligation to ensure that the truth of history is told. We cannot allow any revisionism whether it is related to the Jewish holocaust, the Armenian genocide, the killings by the Khmer Rouge, or the Soviet mass murders.

Eighty-one years ago, my yia-yia and pa-pou (my grandmother and grandfather) were among the lucky ones who were able to flee Smyrna, escaping the horrible deaths suffered by so many others in that community at the hands of Turkish nationalist forces. The fateful journey that began then ultimately brought my family to this great state and nation. I know that my grandparents would take great pride in the fact that their grandson was elected by a free and democratic people to responsibly serve the public interest and would expect me to speak out against the injustice and inhumanity endured by their community, their friends, and their loved ones. You exalt Ataturk's saying, "Government for the people – despite the people." I know that my yia-yia and pa-pou instead would embrace the words of a great American, Abraham Lincoln, who called for a "government of the people, by the people, for the people..."

I hope that you will apologize for the pain your words have caused. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Phil Angelides
State Treasurer

Attachment

**Attachment to Letter from California State Treasurer Phil Angelides to George Will
re: “Californians Need an Atatürk”
July 17, 2003**

The Aftermath, Winston S. Churchill

“Smyrna and portions of its littoral had been populated extensively by Greeks for thousands of years.”

“But in May the belated news of bloody events in Anatolia began to trickle into the subsidiary columns of the newspapers. Reports of massacres of the Christian populations appeared daily. The details of the atrocities committed by the Turks in the Caucasus during the winter of 1920 when the fifty thousand Armenians had perished, and the appalling deportations of Greeks from the Trebizond and Samsun districts which had occurred in the autumn of 1921, were now reaching Europe. During June, 1922, the methodical extermination of Greeks in Western Anatolia was in full swing.”

“Turkey became once again the sole master of Asia Minor, and Mustapha Kemal’s Army having celebrated their triumph by the burning of Smyrna to ashes and by a vast massacre of its Christian population, turned the heads of their columns hopefully towards Constantinople and the Straits.”

“...the flames of Smyrna and its hideous massacres were a foretaste of what the fate of Constantinople might be.”

USA Consular Documents by George Horton, US Consul in Smyrna 1911-1917, 1919-1922) re: the destruction of Smyrna

“Instead a revolting massacre was perpetrated, which I have already described but which I shall refer to again. Looting and pillaging and rape and massacre went on on a large scale immediately after the entry of the Turks, their vengeance first breaking upon the Armenian population, who were accused of having thrown bombs. The truth is that very few bombs were thrown, possibly half a dozen at the utmost and those in a quarter of the city where Armenians are seldom seen. This was no excuse for a hunting, night and day for three days, of Armenians by squads of regular soldiers and their killing in the most revolting manner by being shot, stabbed, hacked to death or having their throats cut publicly in the streets. Armenians were systematically hunted and killed throughout the entire city and their houses methodically broken into, street by street, pillaged, and the men taken out and killed. No pro-Turk propaganda can obscure what actually occurred in Smyrna; - there were too many reliable witnesses – the truth is sure to come out.”

“Also, Sir Valentine Chirol, Harris Foundation lecturer at the University of Chicago in 1924, made this statement: ‘After the Turks had smashed the Greek armies they turned the essentially Greek city (Smyrna) into an ash heap as proof of the their victory.’”

“This last scene on the Smyrna quay reveals the whole diabolical and methodically carried-out plan of the Turks. The soldiers were allowed to glut their lust for blood and plunder and rape by falling first on the Armenians, butchering and burning them making free with their women and girls. But the Greeks, for whom a deeper hatred existed, were reserved for a slower and more leisurely death. The few that have been coming back tell terrible tales. Some were shot down or killed off in squads. All were starved and thousands died of disease, fatigue and exposure.”

“The *London Times* correspondent telegraphed: ‘The killing was carried out systematically. Turkish regulars and irregulars are described as rounding up likely wealthy people in the streets and, after stripping them, killing them in batches. Many Christians who had taken refuge in the churches were burned to death in the buildings which had been set on fire.’”

The Toronto Daily Star (October 20, 1922), Ernest Hemingway, correspondent

”A husband spreads a blanket over a woman in labour in one of the carts to keep off the driving rain. She is the only person making a sound. Her little daughter looks at her in horror and begins to cry. And the procession keeps moving...No matter how long it takes this letter to reach Toronto, when you read it in the *Star* you may be sure that the same ghastly, shambling procession of people being driven from their homes is filing in unbroken line along the muddy road to Macedonia.”

Death by Government, R.J. Rummel

“In total, the nationalists massacred over 100,000 Christians in Smyrna itself. Adding those they deported into the interior to disappear forever, the nationalists killed a likely 190,000 altogether, the vast majority of Greeks.”

“To this day, Turkey absolutely denies that her past governments committed any genocide or mass murder.”

Adolph Hitler, August 22, 1939

“Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians...The world believes in success alone.”

TABLE 10.2
Turkey's Armenian and Greek Genocide
(From table 10.1)

Victims	Number (000)
Armenians killed	2,102
By Young Turks	1,487
domestic	1,404
foreign	83
By nationalists	614
domestic	440
foreign	175
Greeks killed	347
By Young Turks	84
By nationalists	264
Total killed	2,449

Death By Government, R.J. Rummel